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I rise in opposition to raised bills 5153, which redefines "peace officer" to include secret service agents, and raised bill 5158, an act concerning firearms.

Raised bill 5153's redefinition flies in the face of separating state and federal powers. If we are to make such a change, why not admit that Connecticut does everything that Washington, DC, orders? I would refer the committee to Alexander Hamilton's remarks on the Constitution in Federalist 85 – "The additional securities to republican government, to liberty and to property, to be derived from the adoption of the plan under consideration, consist chiefly in the restraints which the preservation of the Union will impose on local factions and insurrections, and on the ambition of powerful individuals in single States". Bear raised bill 5153 in mind appropriate to its ramifications – it proposes to eliminate those restraints.

Raised bill 5158, specifically section 10's deletion of the words "at retail" in Section 29-37a effectively renders anyone who would transfer firearms an unpaid servant of the state. Every family member who wishes to pass on his or her rifle will be forced to act as a dealer, force the recipient to fill out an application in triplicate, and be a glorified paper pusher for DPS. This rogue provision is once again couched within a bill with seemingly good intentions.

It also reinforces a de facto and unconstitutional registration of firearms. As myself and others have explained, ad nauseum, the purpose of the right to keep and bear arms is outlined in Federalist 26-28. Also, as myself and others have explained, ad nauseum, registration of firearms has always been a historical precursor to confiscation, something we must never allow to happen in the interest of maintaining a free state and a free nation.

Dan Reale  
Plainfield